REGISTER OF CLASSIFICATION DECISIONS

Date of entry in Register:	05 December 1996
Name of applicant/court:	Comptroller of Customs
Applicant to the Labelling Body:	Not Applicable
Title of Publication:	Aphrodisiac! The Sexual Secret of Marijuana
Other Known Titles:	Aphrodisiac
Director:	Dennis Van Zak
Producer:	Dennis Van Zak, Tom Parker
Publisher:	Not Applicable
Author:	Not Applicable
Format:	Video Recording VHS/NTSC
Country of Origin:	USA
Language:	English

• •

Components of film originally examined:

Feature:	Aphrodisiac! The Sexual Secret of Marijuana	Running time:	76.54
Trailers:	Nil	Running time:	
		Total Running time:	76.54

Excision/Alteration: No.

Reasons(s) for Excision:

Not Applicable.

• •

… Please turn over

Classification Decision:

Objectionable except if the availability of the publication is restricted to persons who have attained the age of 18 years.

Display conditions:

Nil.

Descriptive Note:

Contains explicit sex scenes.

● ●

Direction to issue a label has not been given.

● ●

SUMMARY OF THE REASONS FOR DECISION:

The video recording entitled *Aphrodisiac! The Sexual Secret of Marijuana* contains explicit sex scenes and a critique of the legal status of marijuana in the 1970's. There is a graphic focus used in the sex scenes, and a complexity to the debate, questioning the legitimacy of marijuana being a controlled drug. The presentation of drug use is detailed and focused upon, but this portrayal of criminal activity is framed as a political debate which is not promotional or encouraging of the criminal act per se.

The submission received by the Classification Office on 16 September 1996 from the importer outlines their view of the nature of the publication. In this, the importer compares the feature with other popular movies which detail marijuana use. The importer believes that the material would be of little interest to most people. The purpose of importing the tape was to promote hemp growing and to provide public information regarding the legal status of marijuana in New Zealand which, the importer states, is a political, industrial and social issue.

Given the argument for cannabis use in America to be legalised, which, albeit dated, is express and detailed, and the explicit sexual activity illustrated, the availability of the publication is considered under the Films, Videos, and Publications Classification Act 1993 to be likely to cause injury to the public good if made generally available. Restriction to an adult audience under the FVPC Act is considered to be a reasonable limit prescribed by law to avoid such injury being caused. This classification therefore overrides the rights and freedoms outlined in the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990.

The video recording is therefore classified as:
Objectionable except if the availability of the publication is restricted to persons who have attained the age of 18 years.

OFLC Ref: 9601109